

April 14, 2021

Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Testimony to the Committee in Support  
H6112 Budget Article 15 (5-44.1)  
Psychology Interjurisdiction Compact (PSYPACT)**

Dear Representative Abney and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H6112 Budget Article 15 Chapter 5-44.1 Psychology Interjurisdiction Compact (PSYPACT). I am a psychologist in private practice in North Kingstown and am a Board Member of Rhode Island Psychological Association. This compact would allow qualifying psychologists to provide telehealth services in PSYPACT member states without having to apply for separate licensure in each state. The need for this ability to practice across state lines has been evidenced by the incredible expansion and acceptance of telehealth as an important option for treatment during the pandemic. University students returning home, patients quarantining in another state, Rhode Island residents caring for loved ones, were all able to continue care because of various emergency orders easing licensure restrictions during the pandemic. It improved access, it continued care, and patients are requesting to continue treatment when they travel. This level of access to care has proven beneficial to treatment as well as now is an expected option.

Besides access to care and continuity of care, PSYPACT also has a standardized process that regulates psychologist practice of telehealth. Psychologists are still responsible for following the laws and regulations of the state where the patient is located. It will also regulate psychologists from other states who practice telehealth here in Rhode Island and will help the state address practice by people who do not have the proper credentials.

Dr. Peter Oppenheimer, Director of Professional Affairs, Rhode Island Psychological Association and Chair Board of Psychology has provided detailed testimony on the rigors of PSYPACT that addresses any concerns about the standards or the compact. I have colleagues in New Hampshire who have completed the application process for PSYPACT and it is thorough.

Please support Rhode Island psychologists provide the continuity of and access to care the patients deserve. Thank you for your consideration and your service to Rhode Island.

Sincerely,



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